

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/632,959	NAKANO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert Shiao	1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to responses filed on 12/20, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application claims benefit of the foreign application:
JAPAN JP2001-027367 with a filing date 02/02/2001.
2. Amendment of claim 1 in the amendment filed on December 20, 2004, is acknowledged. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

Responses to Amendment/Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments regarding rejection of claims 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, filed on December 20, 2004, have been fully considered and they are persuasive. Since the instant compounds of formula (I) are in ester form, i.e., X represents O, and the variable R² represents alkyl, therefore, rejection of claims 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn herein.
4. Since the variable X or Y of instant formula (I) still represents NH, therefore, rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Grams et al. WO 00/273378, is maintained.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vincent K. Shier on February 28, 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 17, after "X and Y independently represent O", delete "or NH"

Delete claims **21-31**

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-20 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious over the art of record, and therefore are allowable. This invention relates to novel cystine derivative and agent for suppressing activation of inflammatory factors. The closest reference is Grams et al. WO 00/273378, discloses cystine derivatives as therapeutic agents for matrix metalloprotease related diseases. The difference between instant claims and Grams et al. is that the instant variable X or Y independently represents O, while Grams et al. represents NH at the same position. Suggestion for modification of above reference to obtain the instant compounds/compositions has not been found. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusions

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Shiao whose telephone number is (571) 272-0707. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Robert Shiao, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
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February 28, 2005

